

Furthermore, the foregoing object is also attained by providing a control method of a printing system which performs printing by controlling a plurality of printing apparatuses comprising: a recognition step of

5 recognizing a status of a printing apparatus among the plurality of printing apparatuses; and a decision step of, in a case of assigning at least a part of a print job which is assumed to be printed by the printing apparatus to another printing apparatus in accordance
10 with the status recognized in the recognition step, deciding the other printing apparatus in accordance with a paper ejection type of the other printing apparatus.

Further, the foregoing object is also attained by providing a computer readable program including
15 instructions for controlling the processor to carry out any of the foregoing methods.

Other features and advantages of the present invention will be apparent from the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying
20 drawings, in which like reference characters designate the same or similar parts throughout the figures thereof.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

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The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of the specification,

illustrate an embodiment of the invention and, together with the description, serve to explain the principles of the invention.

Fig. 1 is a block diagram illustrating the
5 configuration of a distributed printing system according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a block diagram illustrating the components of the distributed printing system according to this embodiment;

10 Fig. 3 is a diagram showing an example of a screen for configuring a distribution algorithm in this embodiment;

Fig. 4 is a diagram showing an example of a screen for configuring a reprint algorithm when a malfunction
15 occurs in this embodiment;

Fig. 5 is a flowchart useful in describing the operation of distributed processing in this embodiment;

Fig. 6 is a flowchart useful in describing the operation of reprint processing when a malfunction
20 occurs in this embodiment;

Fig. 7 is a flowchart useful in describing the operation of reprint processing when a malfunction occurs in this embodiment;

Fig. 8 is a flowchart useful in describing the
25 operation of reprint processing when a malfunction occurs in this embodiment;

Fig. 9 is a diagram useful in describing output by reprinting when a malfunction occurs in this embodiment;

Fig. 10 is a diagram useful in describing output by reprinting when a malfunction occurs in this embodiment;

5 and

Fig. 11 is a diagram useful in describing output by reprinting when a malfunction occurs in this embodiment.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

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A preferred embodiment of the present invention will be described in detail in accordance with the accompanying drawings.

<First Embodiment>

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Fig. 1 is a block diagram illustrating the configuration of a distributed printing system according to an embodiment of the present invention. As shown in Fig. 1, the system includes a host computer 1 serving as an information processing apparatus according to the

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present invention. The host computer 1 runs an application program 11 for executing printing and includes a virtual distributed printer 12 that accepts a print request from the application program 11. The output destinations of the virtual distributed printer

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12 are physical printers 13 to 16. The output destinations may have been set beforehand by an administrator or user, or may be set by the user as the